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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 10/602,586 Confirmation No.: 1642
Applicant(s): Kwitkowski et al.
Filed: June 24, 2003
Art Unit: 1771
Examiner: Lynda Salvatore
Title: FABRIC SOFTENER DRYER SHEET SUBSTRATE

Docket No.: 038712/264882
Customer No.: 00826

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed June 27, 2005, reconsideration by the Examiner, withdrawal of the rejection and formal notification of the allowance of Claims 1-8 are respectfully solicited.

The present invention is directed to an improvement in a nonwoven substrate for a clothes dryer fabric softener sheet. The nonwoven substrate can be impregnated with a fabric softener composition to produce fabric softener sheets that are placed in a clothes dryer and release the fabric softener composition as the clothing is tumbled in the dryer during the heated drying cycle.

As is pointed out in the background portion of the specification, extensive research and development efforts have gone into engineering the nonwoven fabric substrate so that it will meet a variety of very demanding performance criteria. In addition to the requirement of having a soft feel after use, the fabric substrate must have sufficient surface area of fibers present so that it will receive and retain the required amount of fabric softener coating composition. Additionally, the fibers that make up the nonwoven fabric must create a sufficiently open fabric structure to receive and hold the fabric softener coating composition. Also, it is critical that the composition be released at a controlled rate during the drying cycle, which typically takes about